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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1912.

A MAGNIFICENT CIVIC SPIRIT. moment I ever saw," said Rabbi pouring out to show to the world that Callach last night, as he faced the Richt nd's citizens stand together for the good roads fight, and many of great sea of enthusiastic citizens who a greater Richmond. With a spirit filled the Auditorium to the overflowing last night. It was a scone so last night, Richmond will march onthrilling, so inspiring and so splendid ward, forward and upward, until it that the printed word cannot picture it. One of the greatest gatherings ever held in the city, it was certainly the most enthusiastic; to the most skeptical it was overwhelming evidence of the greatness and unanimity of Richmond spirit. Time after time, beyoud the counting, the 4,000 or more citizens present punctuated speakers and the program with a unanimous roar of applause or, as one man, cheered sentiments of civic pride until the steel girders vibrated as if shaken with the force of a mighty dynamo. Alive to the significance of the occasion, the great throng throbbed visibly with optimism, and when Business Manager Dabney, of the Chamber of Commerce, at the and of his speech. offered a resolution affirming the intention of Richmond to talk and work and fight for their city, the citizens finahed to their feet as if by an electrie thrill and, cheering and applauding, adopted the resolution unanimously. The heart of Richmond glowed

and its spirit stood forth, shining and

splendid, in all its glory.

ginla.

city's future and his enumeration of agree with him or be written down as in this way: cliy's future and his enumeration of the great advantages and industries of his and those that are coming; Rabus called the great advantages and industries of his and those that are coming; Rabus called the great advantages and industries of his and those that are coming; Rabus called the great advantages and industries of his and those that are coming; Rabus called the great advantages and those that are coming; Rabus called the great advantages and those of Richmond citizens and his post for his to bear that knowledge was defined beautiful vision of the city as it will be to learn that the aristocrate South in the sum of the property of the city as it will be tarn that the aristocrate South in the sum of the property of the property of the property of the people of government is performing a greater service to this country than the singing and the "stunts" were just what they should have been and every feature of the program was excellently executed and surpassingly appropriate.

The parade, which preceded the exercises in the Auditorium, was an impression pageant, and more than 2000 property of the best roads in the South, ascenting to the coping of the country of the best roads in the South, ascenting the property of the best roads in the South, ascenting the property of the best roads in the South, ascenting the property of the work for it. Councilmen and city officials, business menting and unaugmbered. Here, commercial travelers, marched up Richmond's great the country of the country of the country of the making in road converted on. The Prison Commission has personally in special to the property of the country commission in the country of the country of the country of the country of the country commission in the country of the country of the country commission in the country of the country commission in a law of the prison Commission has personally in property of the country of the country of the country of the country of the cou

white way, keeping step to martial app. Georgia roads were the worst to prisoners excellent, music—an enthusiastic army of Rich- be found anywhere. The expenses of the

mond's progress, striding forward as tabliand, whereby all prisoners have suit of the necessity of caring for the city is striding forward, keeping been piaced upon the roads. The peo- feeble and diseased convicts and for "right dress" with prosperity and ple, instead of private individuals and tuberculosis patients. Each county What was the great lesson of all convict labor.

this splendid demonstration? Why streets beneath the banners of optimism came together for no selfish purpose, but solely because they love their is thoroughly satisfied with the way city, believe in their city and are eagar to show it. There was nothing sel-fish about that great greaters are the space of the system has proven to be the wisest that man could devise." fish about that great meeting; nobody

The new system has stimulated inhad any string to pull. To individuals terest in the good roads movement; it plan in its entirety, but the principle attendance last night meant no per- has made traveling over the State sonal material gain, but, like a tide pleasant, where before it was almost in both cases. that sweeps up the shore, they came perilous.

like that so plenteously manifested hardly more than half the countles stands full-statured among the greatest that took their pro rata share, now cities of the republic. LA POLLETTE AND VIRGINIA.

only eight countles are not working the convicts, and their roads are being We had not thought that Senator La worked by other counties. The de-Follette would so soon and so effect- mand for convicts every year is far ively show the great gulf that is fixed greater than the supply. between himself and democracy such | The law under which the convicts as we know democracy to be in Vir- are now working was passed in 1908.

them have exhibited much rivalry in

Senator from Wisconsin, in the course old lease contracts. Before the pasof his efforts to secure the presidential sage of the law the convicts had been nomination, remarks that all the sold out every five years to coal mines strength of the Democratic party in and lumber camps and other private the South is the aristocracy, and then enterprises. The men brought anycontinues: "The Southern Democrat de- where from \$100 a year up to about spises alike the poor white and the \$200. This gave the State a large negro, and that is not a sentiment that income, and that was one of the reamakes for popular government," he sons why the new system was bitgives an absolutely satisfactory dem- terly fought.

The appeal for a change became too onstration that he is not the kind of candidate who can make headway in great, however, and following the legthe South. This is not because the islative investigation, which showed South is narrow and ignorant. The a horrible state of things in Georgia trouble with the South, in Senator La convict affairs, the Legislature was Follette's opinion, is that the people of this broad section of the country have nothing was accomplished at the regcertain old-fashioned ideas of morality ular session of the Legislature. Gov-

in unsumbered lines, commercial X-rth when the present plan of work camps and has found most of them travelers, marched up Richmond's great has been carried out. Yet a few years in good condition and the health of the

The expenses of the system have been mond boosters, boosting because they The marvelous change is the result "very modest" The State spent dur-

Dispaich believe. It meant a great deal—that of the abolition of the convict lease ing the last year \$112,000 on the conmarching line, for it typified Rich- system. A new system has been es- victs. This amount is largely the recorporations, now get the benefit of cares for practically all the expenses of the men working its roads, with The Atlanta correspondent of the the exception, of course, of prison war dens, inspectors, and other salaries, of fice accounts of the commission and other incidental expenses.

The situation in Virginia has been in many respects identical with that in Georgia. The time has come when our people demand that convict labor be used for public benefit, not private. The experience of a sister Southern State is, therefore, illuminating for us Assembly will not follow the Georgia

Voice of the People

road construction. Where the first Dr. Taylor's Meditations at Monumental. o the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—On the night of the 26th of ecember I attended the services at Monumental Church, which commemo-rated the burning of the Richmond Theatre 100 years ago. These services impressed me deeply, solemnly and reverently, and so I look into my heart

The hurning of the theatre was topic very familiar in Richmond thirty years after the tragedy curred, when I was a small child. s we know democracy to be in Virinia.

and the system went into effect in
March, 1809, with the expiration of the
old lease contracts. Before the pasomination, remarks that all the
trength of the Democratic party in vision, which at that time was full-believed in by mq, and which awfull; impressed me. There was also a bool in the library of my Sunday school en titled, "A Voice from Richmond," whose theme was this calamity, and which read with absorbing interest.

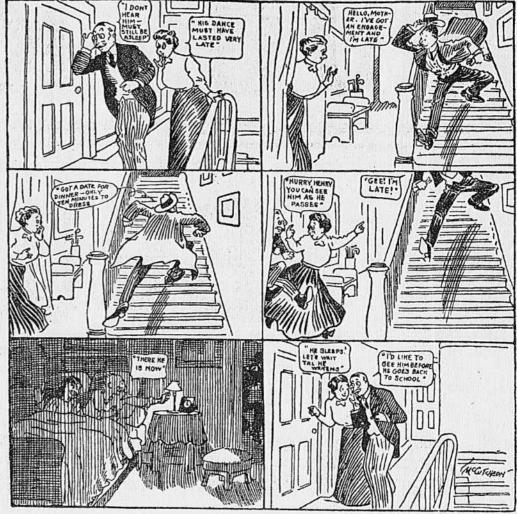
> back taxany have been at the formatter to be forgotten. Even at the distant day I can at any time recall the scene of the roaring whiris of fiame scene of the roaring whiris of fiame scene of the roaring whiris up to be a the shricking woman, her blazing arms shricking woman, her blazing arms and the shricking woman appeal to heave oniciretened in vain appeal to heaven and earth. Since then, as coroner, I have seen great numbers of persons, chiefly women and children, who have been destroyed by fire. No deaths are more distressing. The sight of the charred, disfigured and odorous body is peculiarly oppressive, and it awakens the profoundest pity and sorrow. It was not unnatural them as I see.

Abe Martin



You think o' a thousan' things white you're loafin' that never occurred t' you when you had a good job. Miss b'awn Lippineut says shu'd list as leave git a newspaper clippin' as a typewritten letter.

HOME FROM COLLEGE FOR THE HOLIDAYS By John T. McCutcheon.



"A safe stronghold our Gold's still, A trusty shield and weapon."

A trusty sment and weapon.

The Christian people of Richmond, and devastating was and westing pestificate, and when flery destruction had swept away their detrest, and God's own face was averted from them, never lost their trust in Him. Some of their trustful hymns, fall of pathos, full of melody, full of sweetness, they sang on the memorial night. An unbeliever who chanced to be among them, unless he was honelessly unfeeding, could who chanced to be among them, unless he was hopelessly infeeling, could scarcely have refrained from longing for a faith so strengthening, so comporting. And as the glorious music rose to heaven, softening and blessing him as it floated on, though perhaps he could not quite say, "Lord, I believe," it night be that there would well up from his swelling heart, the reverent aspiration, "Help thou mine unbellef."

WM. H. TAYLOR:
January 1, 1912. January 1, 1912.

La Marquise de Fontenoy

THERE is an American end to the disasters which have lately over-taken Sir Prederick Johnstone, classmat; of Edward VII. his most intimate trien; throughout the whole of his life, famous clubman for balf a century, winner of the Derby

plained to him, to evert his being gazetted as a bankrupt.

Set of the matter is that Sir Frederick, who enjoys the rare distinction of having been a baronet from the moment of his advent into the world. Since he and his twin brother. Colonel George (tamiliarly known as "Doddy") Johnstone, were born five months after their father had been killed by a fall from his horse, had lived in such complete retirement for several years just that his former cronies, and even his relatives, had wholly lost sight of him.

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